

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure, comprising:

a barrier layer consisting essentially of metallized polyester capable of withstanding a retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading;

a layer of polyester laminated to one side of the barrier layer of metallized polyester, the layer of polyester being capable of withstanding the retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading; and

a layer of cast polypropylene laminated to an opposite side of the barrier layer of metallized polyester, the layer of cast polypropylene being capable of withstanding the retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading.

2. (Original) The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the layers are laminated to one another using solvent-based retortable laminating adhesives.

3. (Original) The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the layers are laminated to one another using solventless retortable laminating adhesives.

4. (Currently Amended) The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, further comprising ink printed on the side of the layer of polyester that faces the barrier layer of metallized polyester.

5. (Currently Amended) The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the polyester of the barrier layers ~~comprise~~ is polyethylene terephthalate terephthalate.

6. (Currently Amended) A flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure, comprising:

a barrier layer consisting essentially of metallized polyester capable of withstanding a retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading; and

a layer of cast polypropylene laminated to one side of the barrier layer-~~of~~ metallized polyester, the layer of cast polypropylene being capable of withstanding the retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading.

7. (Original) The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the layers are laminated to each other by a solvent-based retortable laminating adhesive.

8. (Original) The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the layers are laminated to each other by a solventless retortable laminating adhesive.

9. (Currently Amended) The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, further comprising ink printed on the barrier layer-~~of~~ metallized polyester on an opposite side thereof from the layer of cast polypropylene, and a layer of a retortable lacquer covering the ink.

10. (Currently Amended) The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the ~~metallized~~ polyester of the barrier layer ~~comprises~~ is polyethylene-terephthalate terephthalate.

11. (Original) A flexible non-foil based retort package, comprising at least two opposing portions of the packaging structure of claim 1 having peripheral edge portions of the opposing portions heat-sealed together so as to form a pouch configuration.

12. (Previously Presented) A flexible non-foil based retort package, comprising at least two opposing portions of the packaging structure of claim 6 having peripheral edge portions of the opposing portions heat-sealed together so as to form a pouch configuration.